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New Diana Barry takes to the stage

Charlottetown - There is a new Diana in Avonlea this year. Kathryn Ballantine is ecstatic to be making her debut appearance with the Charlottetown Festival in the role of Diana Barry in Anne of Green Gables-The Musical™.

Becoming Diana was a bit of a whirlwind for Ballantine. She auditioned for the Charlottetown Festival in Toronto earlier this year, and two days later she landed the role of Anne Shirley's kindred spirit, Diana Barry. This is her first professional performance and she could not be more excited for the opportunity.

"It is great to be able to come to the East Coast to perform at this amazing theatre with these great people," says Ballantine. "It is a big deal for me to be a part of this."

Ballantine was born in Ontario but grew up in England. She now lives in Toronto while attending the Sheridan College Music Theatre Performance Program. She began singing at a very young age, and at four years old enjoyed traveling around England with her father performing at various venues.

In a role markedly different from Diana Barry, Ballantine performs as Lesley Gore singing It's My Party in British Invasion II: America Strikes Back! also at the Charlottetown Festival this summer.

Anne of Green Gables-The Musical™ opened on the Mainstage at the Confederation Centre of the Arts on June 14 and runs until September 27. British Invasion II: America Strikes Back! opened on the Mainstage June 20 and runs until August 29.

Tickets to both shows are available at the Confederation Centre's Box Office at 1-800-565-0278 or online at www.charlottetownfestival.com.

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what's on

Arnaud Maggs, *Self-portrait with Deborah, Oued Laou*, 1969, gelatin silver print.
From the exhibition *Photography 101: push the button*. Until September 28

America Strikes Back! Mainstage Theatre: June 20 - Aug 29 (select dates)

The Ballad of Stompin Tom: July 3 - September 20 (Mon - Sat)

Feist: November 10

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